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JOE McLAUGHLIN
DIRECTOR, GENERAL PUBLICITY

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DAYTON, Ohio, February 18, 1971 --- Poetry is Herbert Martin's life. The young University of Dayton English professor/poet will live that life to the fullest next week when he gives readings in Virginia, Dayton and New York on three successive days.

Author of the poem, "New York The Nine Million," Professor Martin will be a featured speaker at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, Monday, February 22, during that school's VCU Literary & Film Festival. He will hop a plane back to Dayton to participate Tuesday in the University of Dayton's Accent on Blackness Week program and then go to New York City Wednesday morning for another poetry reading at St. John's In The Village poetry series.

During the VCU festival he will give poetry readings along with John Ciardi and Miller Williams and then discuss music during his portion of the afternoon program. Wednesday at Dayton he will discuss Black Literature & Black Poetry with Mari Evans of Indiana University. His appearance at St. John's, an Episcopal church in the Village is to read his own poetry.

Other literary people on the VCU program are Anthony Burgess, who holds the Princeton University Chair of Creative Arts; William Hedgepeth, senior editor of LOOK; James Herbert, filmmaker and painter from the University of Georgia; John Lamb, author, film and drama critic for "The Village Voice;" and Brian Moore, Michael Mott, Peter Taylor, and Sylvia Wilkinson, authors.

Martin, who also will give readings March 8 at Purdue University and in Europe this summer, was hired at the University of Dayton last summer after his presentations at the school's Poetry Week last spring. He is a graduate of the University of Toledo and the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is currently teaching creative writing as well as a Black Poetry course at UD.